



## Office of Selectmen

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### Transportation Committee

I'm Douglas Humes, Jr. the First Selectman of the Town of North Canaan and I have held this office for 27 years. I'm here today to support Bill 495 for funding an independent study to determine the feasibility of restoring passenger service from Danbury to the Massachusetts Line. Also Bill 6343 an act concerning the restoration of the Housatonic Line from Danbury to the Massachusetts Line it is vital to my town as well as others along the line and it would insure an environmentally safe railway as well as continued service to the manufacturing companies that are located in the area that use the rail service. In our community the rail service continues to provide service to our largest taxpayers and employers. Becton Dickinson is one of the largest producers of medical products in the world and Specialty Minerals are two companies that provide jobs and depend on good safe rail service to get their products delivered.

As we look at our states assets in infrastructure we must repair and maintain roads and rails if we are to move forward in Connecticut. Also by improving the line we open the door for use for future customers more jobs and passenger service which will also have a positive effect on small town economics along the line. In closing North Canaan is located at the intersection of Us Rt. #7 & US Rt. #44. Rail service is a continued investment in a safe and reliable form of transportation and is both essential to business and the economy of the community. All of which are important to expanding the economy of the State of Connecticut. On behalf of myself and the residents of North Canaan I want to thank for taking my testimony.